

ANN ARMSTRONG / ann-made.org

A community-engaged artist working at the intersection of co-creation, accessible making, & the human relationship to place.

PRACTICE I design creative experiences that return agency to participants. My workshops and collaborations are built around simple invitations — observe, make, share — with no prescribed outcome. I work with artists and non-artists alike, in schools, neighborhoods, institutions, and online, drawing on visual art, spatial practice, improvisation, and participatory listening to create conditions for connection, reflection, and discovery.

TEACHING + FACILITATION

2022 Perspectives in Design, Center for Integrated Design — University of Texas 4-week module exploring design as a tool for social and spatial inquiry; developed and led independently.

2015 Intro to Wood + Steel studio — Laguna Gloria Art School

2014–2015 High School 3-D Sculpture & Art Instructor — The Griffin School

2013–2014 Advanced Young Artist Program — The Contemporary Austin 6-month studio mentorship with a high school junior; multi-medium exploration (welding, textiles, wood, drawing) culminating in a public exhibition and permanent steel art installation in downtown Round Rock

2007, 2011, 2012 Studio Instructor, Summer Architecture Academy — University of Texas

SELECTED PROJECTS + WORKSHOPS

Overstory + Understory (2020, collaboration with TreeFolks Austin) Pandemic-era workshop inviting participants to observe a tree near their home for one week and document what they noticed — through drawing, writing, photography, or verbal storytelling. Open to artists and non-artists across Austin, and beyond. Designed around accessibility and optional sharing; outcomes documented on the TreeFolks YouTube channel.

Odditree Society Sensory Walk (2026, Laguna Gloria) Community walk exploring sensory and ecological attention; served as a precursor to composer Graham Reynolds' *Music for Trees* event. One of several Odditree Society programs connecting community members to urban nature through participatory arts practice. *The Odditree Society is a community arts + urban nature organization founded (by Ann and the former COA Urban Forester Angela Hansen) in 2013.*

Tree Intimacy Workshop (2021, The Contemporary Austin / Laguna Gloria) Experiential workshop exploring personal and somatic relationships to trees; companion to a public talk presented at Nerd Nite (2023).

Art in '04 Drop-In Basketry Workshops (2025) Neighborhood-based, drop-in basketry workshop. Designed for casual, low-barrier all-ages participation in a residential / backyard setting.

Collaborative Mapping Projects (2013–2018) A sustained body of participatory mapping work — including *Austin's Atlas*, *Mischief Maps*, and the *People's Guide to the South Central Waterfront* — developed in collaboration with the City of Austin Planning Department, neighborhood groups, and fellow artists. Recognized by the Austin Chronicle (Best of Austin, 2015) and supported by a Downtown Austin Alliance Placemaking Grant (2013).

PUBLIC EVENTS + SHOWS *(selected)*

- 2026** *Slow Growth Odditree Ride* with Ghisallo Cycling Initiative
- 2023** *Transcendental Basketry* — The Really Small Museum *(collaboration with S.A.R.F.)*
- 2023** *Trunk Show* window installation — Stuffed Animal Rescue Foundation, AKA the S.A.R.F.
- 2023** *Tree Sanctuary* — Northern Southern Gallery *From* group show
- 2022** *Boggy Walk* — collaboration with the Really Small Museum and artist Chris Kennedy
- 2022** *Festo Fest* — collaboration with Northern Southern Gallery
- 2021** *Myco Bicycle Ride* — collaboration with the Central Texas Mycological Society
- 2021** *Odditree Ride* — collaboration with Outdoor Afro and the Ghisallo Cycling Initiative
- 2017** *Discover Pomerleau Park* — Windsor Park Neighborhood collaboration

PUBLIC ART

- 2020** *Thalweg!* Fortandia fort — Wildflower Center
- 2014** *Where is Your Heart?* collage mural — Calles Street
- 2012** *Stem Rack*, steel sculpture — 2nd St. and S. Congress Ave.
- 2010** *Twenty Lines About Lines*, mural — Austin City Hall, The People's Gallery
- 2009** *Shadow Box*, mural — 7th and Navasota

LECTURES + TALKS

- 2023** "Tree Intimacy" — Nerd Nite
- 2022** "Waller Creek Walk & Talk" *(with C. Kennedy)* — UT, Technologies of Displacement and Resistance
- 2022** "Expanding Interpretation Frameworks" — UT Design School, Interaction Design 1 (guest speaker)
- 2018** "Mapping as Intimacy Between People and Place" — Texas State Geography Department
- 2016** "Excavating Empirical Data" — Open Austin
- 2013** "Public Art Prototypes" — Protos Festival / Austin Museum of Digital Art

AWARDS + RESIDENCIES

- 2026** Infrathin Artist Residency, Concan, Texas
- 2025** Frick Arts Foundation Award, Austin, Texas
- 2024** Icelandic Textile Center Residency — Blonduos, Iceland
- 2021** Observer-in-Residence — Laguna Gloria / The Contemporary Austin
- 2018** City of Austin Urban Forestry Grant — Odditree Society
- 2015** Austin Chronicle "Best of" — Austin's Atlas
- 2013** Downtown Austin Alliance Placemaking Grant
- 2013** Haystack Open Studio Residency — Deer Isle, Maine
- 2011** Elsewhere Residency — Greensboro, North Carolina

PUBLICATIONS + MEDIA

- 2021, 2023** Participant in Phonography Austin's *Annual Report* (an annual field recording compendium)
- 2020** "Welcome to the Odditree Society" — Treehugger
- 2014** "The Cartography of Home: Austin's Atlas" — Austin Chronicle
- 2014** "Ann Armstrong Strikes a Balance Between Designing and Making" — Austin American-Statesman
- 2013** *Art & Labor* *(documentary film)*— COA Cultural Arts Division, SXSW Community Screening
- 2011** "Working Out of the Box" interview — Archinect

FABRICATION

2013–2014 Hatch Workshop — Design, fabrication, and installation of wood and steel furniture and architectural metalwork for commercial and residential projects

2011–2012 Hewn — Fabrication and installation of architectural metalwork for Uchi Houston, Whole Foods, and other commercial projects

2007–2010 Jay Hargrave Architecture — Design, fabrication, and installation of architectural metalwork and structural steel for commercial and residential projects

PROGRAM + PROJECT MANAGEMENT

2024–2026 Project Control — Project management consulting for hospitality clients and public school districts; portfolios ranging from \$8M to \$35M. Schedule/budget oversight, multi-stakeholder coordination, contract management.

2022–2023 milk + honey spa — Owner representation and construction administration for national expansion.

2015–2021 Topo Development + Hai Hospitality — In-house design, permitting, and construction administration for restaurant, mixed-use, and commercial developments up to 165,000 s.f.

EDUCATION + TRAINING

2012 Graduate of Coldtowne Theater's Improv School

2010 Metal Arts Certificate — Austin Community College

2007 Master in Architecture — University of Texas at Austin

2005 California Architect's License (#C29786) + NCARB Certification (#83555)

1998 Bachelor in Architecture — University of Oregon